

**Springerville Town Council
Minutes
November 19, 2003**

Present: Mayor Kay Dyson, Vice-Mayor Mary Nedrow and Mark Baca
Scott Cray at 7:40pm

Absent: Ramon Castillo

Staff: Kurt Hassler Town Manager, Val Cordova Town Clerk, Sterling Solomon Town Attorney,
Steve West Chief of Police.

Public: Larisa Bogardus, Jim Furman, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Pulsifer, Pat Baca, Theresa and Cheyanne
Hinshaw, Diana Arnold, Tracy Powers, Gary Kiehne, Mike Dew and Bronson West.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She noted that Scott Cray's son had taken a fall off the trampoline and had to take him to the emergency room.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Baca, Invocation by Mayor Dyson.

3. Public Participation

None at this time

5. Swear in New Council Member: Mark Baca is filling the vacancy on the Town Council.

Mayor Dyson welcomed Mr. Baca and thanked him for his willingness to serve on the Council. Mayor Dyson then asked the Town Clerk to swear him in. Mark Baca was sworn in to office by Val Cordova, Town Clerk.

4. Manager, and Council Reports

Council Reports

Vice-Mayor Nedrow reported she attended the Planning and Zoning meeting on the 13th. A conditional a use permit was issued to Cellular One for a tower with restrictions.

The Commission also agreed that Mr. Moses RV Park would receive water and sewer without further cost to Mr. Moses.

Monday the 17th she attended the White Mountain Ambulance meeting. They discussed the purchase of land to relocate the ambulance service. The issue of visibility in trying to enter Hwy 60 or Main Street from South Papago was again brought up. She asked if it was possible to paint the curbs red to keep vehicles from parking there especially high profile vehicles.

Mayor Dyson reported that the Health Care District will meet in St. Johns on December 11th. They were asked for \$250,000 during last weeks meeting to recruit a doctor. This issue is under consideration while they review what statutes allow them to do.

Springerville, Eagar and St. Johns Mayors and County Officials met with the hospital board to gather information regarding the bankruptcy procedure which is almost complete. They hope to emerge from bankruptcy the first part of the year.

She and Mr. Hassler attended the ground breaking of Tucson Electric Power for the one billion dollar project. She, Steve West and Mr. Hassler also met with their information officer who is doing a community assessment regarding projects, rumors and how they would like to communicate.

She also attended the Chamber Board meeting this week who have a proposal from Hank Rogers regarding the Outlaw OHV Trail. The jamboree is scheduled for September 8th through the 11th of next year. They hope to attract two to three hundred ATV enthusiasts to the valley and market the trails of the White Mountains. The Chamber has been asked to insure the event and fill out the special event permit for the Forest Service. The next meeting will be on January 15th. They have received \$5,000 from the County and

\$8,000 from the Forest Service to market the event. They have applied for other grant money and hope to hire an event director.

The "Run with the Wolf" event is also being considered by the Chamber.

The Chamber holiday meeting will be on December 9th at Coyote Creek at 12:00. Anyone wishing to attend must RSVP.

Managers Report:

Mr. Hassler advised the Council that they had copies of the October financial statement and a summary of taxes collected.

He pointed out that the Council's budget is over 33% due to the fire works. The town did the purchasing of the fireworks and the insurance and was then reimbursed which throws the budget out of whack. They will also be doing fireworks for New Year's and the town will again be used as a pass through. The town will not be contributing any money.

Mr. Hassler explained that the Christmas holidays have been discussed during staff meeting and he is proposing to offer bonuses to all full and part-time employees. A list of all the employees and the amount of the proposed bonuses is before the Council. We will hold a staff luncheon on the 22nd of December for staff and Council only. The luncheon will cost approximately \$500.00 but we do not have a count at this time.

The proposed bonus schedule is \$75.00 for part-time personnel, \$150.00 for full time, and \$250.00 for department heads and \$25.00 for volunteer fire fighters who have been employed for the last six months. He explained that the money would come from each individual department from the salary line item.

Mr. Hassler said that he based these bonuses on conversations he has had with the Council regarding how much more they have accomplished this past year than they have in the last five and that it is staff that has done this. He felt that they need to be rewarded for a job well done this past year.

The Council members stated that they did not have a problem with this.

Mr. Hassler also reported he attended the White Mountain Partnership meeting today at Honda. They are getting ready for another "Snowtacular" that will be held in Tucson this year in late January. There is an open invitation for good quality photographs to be used for promotional materials. Photos will be distributed to each entity for review for their use.

He also attended the airport committee meeting on Tuesday night. They are moving along with their rules and regulations.

He advised the Council that he would schedule a work session after the first of the year to review the audit.

Mayor Dyson reminded the Council that "SHPO" the State Historic Preservation Office would be here tomorrow. From 4:30 to 6:00pm will be specifically to discuss can the "Springerville Elementary School" be saved. Reports will be heard from Jim Garrison the SHPO officer, the architect and the structural engineer who toured the old school a couple of weeks ago. A decision will not be made until January 7th by the Council.

5. Minutes

Consider approval of the minutes from the town council meeting held on November 5,, 2003.

Motion by Mary Nedrow/Mark Baca to approve the minutes of November 5, 2003.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

6. ORDINANCE 2003-005: Second reading and discussion of Ordinance 2003-005 regarding the raising of the transient lodging tax from 1% to 3%.

Mr. Hassler explained that would raise the bed tax from 1% to 3% that bring us in line with Eagar and several other towns. The one percent we have now raises approximately \$12,000 a year, the three percent would bring in approximately \$36,000. This would almost pay the \$37,000 budgeted for Chamber activities discussed during the budget session.

Mr. Gary Kiehne local hotel owner addressed the Council and stated he was not in favor of raising the bed tax. He stated that these funds in the past should have been used for promoting events and bringing them to town. He felt that visitors would drive to Show Low or even to on to Alpine to save money.

"An ordinance of the Town of Springerville, Arizona, relating to the privilege license tax; amending the town tax code by increasing the tax rate on transient lodging; providing penalties for the violation thereof; providing for severability and designating an effective date" read by Mayor Dyson.

8. **ORDINANCE 2003-005:** Consider adopting Ordinance 2003-005 regarding the raising of the transient lodging tax from 1% to 3%.

Discussion continued regarding the lodging tax. After hearing more comments from the public the Council felt that they would like information on how they could allocate these funds for bringing events to the community and possibly changing the ordinance to reflect this.

Mr. Kiehne also suggested the Council consider forming an organization that includes the lodging industry and the chamber for the promotion of special events.

Mr. Hassler recommended they pass this ordinance and make it a line item in the budget process. That the Chamber will be given a specified number of dollars generated from the bed tax and specify as well that it has to be used for event promotion only and would have to be accounted for.

Motion by Mark Baca/Mary Nedrow to table ordinance 2003-005 to hear more proposals on how to earmark these funds.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

9. **ORDINANCE 2003-006:** Second reading and discussion of Ordinance 2003-006 regarding the adoption of regulation relating to the placement of towers in the Town of Springerville.

An ordinance of the Town of Springerville, Arizona, adopting the public document entitled "Uniform Policies, Guidelines, Regulations, and Restrictions with respect to communication towers and antennas in the Town of Springerville" by reference; establishing an effective date; providing for severability and providing penalties for violations. Reading by Mayor Dyson.

10. **ORDINANCE 2003-006:** Consider adopting Ordinance 2003-006 regarding the adoption of regulation relating to the placement of towers in the Town of Springerville.

Mr. Hassler announced that there are three copies of this regulation on file in the office of the town clerk for public inspection. He explained that there are no height restrictions but there are setback conditions.

Motion by: Mary Nedrow/Mark Baca to authorize the Mayor to sign Ordinance 2003-006 adopting the public document "Uniform Policies, Guidelines, Regulations, and Restrictions".

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

NEW BUSINESS:

11. **REQUEST FOR FUNDING:** Consider making a donation to the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association from the Council budget.

Mayor Dyson said she received a letter from the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association requesting funds. After some discussion no action was taken.

12. **COMPUTER USAGE POLICY:** Consider approving a section to the employee manual regarding the usage of town computers, internet, and e-mail.

Mr. Hassler explained this policy gives employees direction with regard to using the internet.

Mr. Solomon called attention to a couple of changes that should be made to the policy. The first is at the top of page 5 of paragraph A, where it states "Department Manager, it should be changes to say " "Town Manager". Strike all the wording following that up to the sentence beginning Blanket.
The next change should be added to the end of paragraph D, "subject to applicable laws regarding public records".

Motion by Mark Baca/Mary Nedrow to approve the computer usage policy and add it to the Town Employee Manual with the changes noted by the attorney.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

13. REQUEST FOR FUNDING: Consider making a donation to the Center for Desert Archaeology from the Town Council budget.

Mayor Dyson explained that the Desert for Archaeology has assisted the Town many times with issues regarding Casa Malpais site and museum as well as made several presentations at Casa regarding different archaeology projects. They wrote the current Casa grant to repairs and preservation of the site.

Motion by Mary Nedrow/Mark Baca to authorize the Town Manager to make a check in the amount of \$200.00 to the Center for Desert Archaeology.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

14. WEST NILE VIRUS REPORT: Hear a report from Don Foster with the Apache County Health Department concerning the Status of West Nile virus in Apache County.

Mr. Foster did not attend the meeting but Mayor Dyson explained that the West Nile virus was averted in Apache County with mosquito abatement.

15. SHPO GRANT ACCEPTANCE: Consider authorizing the Town Manager to accept the grant awarded by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Mr. Hassler explained that this is the grant the town applied for from the State Historic Preservation Office to rehabilitate foundation of the old school. The grant was award but he advised the Council that this grant has to be accepted by the Town before December 8th. He also advised the Council that the grant can be turned down in the future if the council should decide to demolish the building.

Mayor Dyson brought up some questions they would like to ask SHPO at tomorrow's meeting and thought they should table this item until after that meeting.

Mr. Hassler advised the Council that there are a lot of strings attached to the grant if they accept it.

Motion by Mary Nedrow/Mark Baca to table this until the next meeting.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

16. PER DIEM REQUEST: Consider authorizing reimbursement to Kay Dyson for attending a meeting.

Vice-Mayor Nedrow chaired this item of the agenda. No action could be taken at this time.

Motion by Kay Dyson/Mark Baca to table the per diem request.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca

17. VEHICLE PURCHASE: Consider authorizing the Town Manager to purchase vehicles from the U.S. Forest Service auction on November 21, 2003.

Mr. Hassler explained that he is asking for permission to spend up to \$30,000 to purchase up to six vehicles. Five trucks for public works and one for animal control. The public works department has identified vehicles and researched blue book value on the vehicles picked. With Council approval tonight they will return and do through inspections on the vehicles. They will be looking for heavy duty trucks, priority being 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Mr. Hassler explained that the money to purchase these vehicles will come from the LGIP savings account. He reiterated that they would thoroughly inspect the vehicles.

Councilman Cray jointed the meeting during the vehicle purchase discussion after a family emergency.

Motion by Mary Nedrow/Mark Baca to authorize the Town Manager to purchase vehicles from the U.S. Forest on November 21, 2003 not to exceed \$30,000.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

16. The Council returned to item 16 now that they have a quorum and Mayor Dyson declared a conflict of interest and left the room.

Vice-Mayor Nedrow chaired the meeting to consider authorizing reimbursement for Mayor Dyson for attending a Meeting of the Rural Education meeting.

Motion by Mark Baca/Scott Cray motion to authorize the Town Manager to pay Kay Dyson \$50.00 for attendance at the Rural Education meeting in Flagstaff.

Vote:	Ayes:	Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

Mayor Dyson was asked to return to the meeting.

18. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Scott Cray/Mary Nedrow to adjourn the meeting.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Mark Baca
		Scott Cray

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Kay Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday November 19, 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of November 2003

Town Clerk